



**City of New York  
Community Board #1, Queens**

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April 23, 2026

Alexander Han  
Chief of Concessions  
NYC Parks Department  
Arsenal 830 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

Dear Mr. Han,

During the March 17, 2026, Full Board Meeting and Public Hearing, the Parks Department Concessions Division presented a PowerPoint related to the Astoria Park Tennis Courts. Our Board was informed of the request by petition to install concessions within the tennis courts of Astoria Park. There were approximately 300 signatories to the petition. Several individuals spoke during the Full Board Meeting in favor of the proposal. The Board Office also received two (2) emails not in favor of the project.

During the meeting there was a robust discussion concerning access to the courts by community residents. There were concerns regarding the cost of utilizing the facility and the ability to provide fair and equitable access for all. Additionally, concerns and comments were voiced around the maintenance and "wear and tear" of the facility due to the extended use of the premises. Tree damage was noted as a serious concern by both Board members and members of the public. Sound pollution is an additional point of concern due to the blowers and/or generators that may be utilized to inflate the proposed "tennis bubble."

Community Board 1, Queens seeks preventative measures to ensure the quality of life for the residents closest to Astoria Park. Attention to decibel monitoring of any inflatable devices should occur, with noise levels not exceeding 85 decibels. In addition, the Board strongly recommends that power for the structure be accessed directly from the electrical power grid rather than through the use of generators in order to minimize noise and environmental impact. The Board also emphasizes that restroom facilities must be clearly addressed as part of the concession arrangement. Specifically, it must be determined whether restroom services will be provided and maintained by the concessionaire or whether the City will ensure that existing park facilities are opened and properly maintained during winter operations, particularly in light of the fact that such facilities are often closed during winter months to prevent frozen pipes.

Community Board 1 further requests that no more than eight (8) to ten (10) of the fourteen (14) existing courts be enclosed within the winter bubble structure. The remaining courts should remain available for public use at the standard New York City permit rates rather than being controlled by the concessionaire. This will help ensure that equitable public access to the courts is maintained for residents who rely on the City's existing permit system. Additionally, the Board believes that the concession should include reasonable provisions for community access, including designated days and times each week when courts are available to the public at low or no cost, thereby ensuring that the facility benefits residents of all income levels.

The proposal should also include a concession component for food and beverage service to adequately support users of the facility during the winter season. Community Board 1 encourages the concessionaire, where possible, to prioritize local hiring for positions within the facility so that employment opportunities generated by this project may directly benefit members of the surrounding community.

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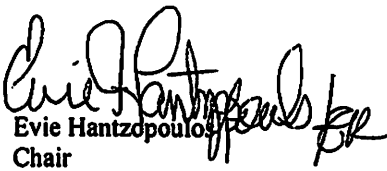
Community Board 1 wishes to make clear that the inflatable tennis structure must be seasonal in nature. The structure must be removed when the winter season ends and may only be reinstalled when the winter season returns. Under no circumstances will the Board support a year-round tennis bubble installation. Furthermore, if the concessionaire attempts to circumvent the seasonal requirement in any way, the concession contract should include provisions for mandatory termination and loss of the concession agreement with the City.

The Board also requests the opportunity to review the terms of the concession contract prior to it being finalized and signed by the City and the concessionaire.

The facility and surrounding area should be kept clean and well maintained by the concessionaire at all times. Any lighting associated with the courts must be designed so as not to negatively impact the surrounding community. Fair and equitable court access should be provided for community members, and all the existing tennis courts should be resurfaced on a regular schedule for the outdoor season's use. Overall, the operation of the facility should not create an undue burden for nearby residents.

Our Board supports outdoor activities which improve health and wellbeing. We understand that sport aids in longevity, with studies linking it to increased life expectancy, enhanced brain function, and reduced stress. We support the positive aspects of the addition; however, we hold reservations regarding the overall impact on our neighbors' quality of life due to the additional park use and expect them to be addressed in the RFP.

Sincerely,

  
Evie Hantzopoulos  
Chair

  
Richard Kituzani  
Parks Committee Chair

cc: Honorable Jacqueline Langsam, Commissioner Queens Parks Department  
Honorable Meira Berkower, Chief of Staff QBC  
Honorable Tiffany Cabán, Council Member